

**To:** McGrath, Shaun[McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov]; Russo, Rebecca[Russo.Rebecca@epa.gov]  
**From:** Jenkins, Laura Flynn  
**Sent:** Wed 9/23/2015 6:41:04 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Winter Discharge Treatment

I've got a timer set and will amplify 10 minutes after HQ release. I also filled in Althea Foster, current IC, and Mike Barry, DIC, who takes over for Althea tomorrow.

Laura Jenkins

Media Officer

USEPA-Region 8

1595 Wynkoop St.

Mailcode: 8-OC

Denver, CO 80202

Landline: 303-312-6256

Cell: 202-360-8453

Fax: 303-312-6961

**From:** StClair, Christie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 12:40 PM  
**To:** McGrath, Shaun; Gray, David; Deitz, Randy  
**Cc:** Purchia, Liz; Distefano, Nichole; Ostrander, David; Braun, Richard; Sandoval, Joni; Way, Steven; Mills, Bethany; Reynolds, Thomas; Ackerman, Joyce; Vaught, Laura; Calanog, Steve; Card, Joan; Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Russo, Rebecca; Hull, George; Smith, Roxanne  
**Subject:** Re: Winter Discharge Treatment

HQ will issue at 1:30 MTN/3:30 Eastern. Our GKM media list includes R8's list, but I don't mind reporters getting it twice.

Please note the changes below to the final release, to clarify weather conditions at the

mine site.

Christie

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Sept. 23, 2015

## **EPA Announces Gold King Mine Water Treatment System for Winter 2015-16**

(Washington, D.C.) -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that a portable, temporary treatment system will be located in Gladstone, CO to continue treating water discharged from the Gold King Mine during winter 2015-16. This system will replace temporary settling ponds constructed by the EPA in August 2015.

The transition to the portable treatment system is necessary as winter temperatures at the mine site (elevation 10,500 feet) can reach -20F, making it unsafe to manually treat water at the mine site. The schedule calls for the treatment system to be operational by Oct. 14, 2015. EPA's contractor, ER LLC, awarded a subcontract Sept. 22, 2015 to Alexco Environmental Group (US) Inc. to complete the work.

This system will treat the approximately 550 gallons per minute (gpm) of water that continue to flow from the mine, including the discharges related to ongoing work in the mine to stabilize conditions. The system is designed to handle up to 1,200 gpm. The objective of the treatment system is to neutralize the mine discharge and remove solids and metals. Although the Gold King Mine discharge is just one of many into Cement Creek, the treatment will remove a portion of the metal loading to Cement Creek.

The EPA continues to evaluate data to determine the impact of the Gold King Mine on water quality.

Additional information about EPA's Gold King Mine response: [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

R256

Christie St. Clair

US EPA Office of Public Affairs

c: 202-768-5780

---

**From:** McGrath, Shaun  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 2:31 PM  
**To:** StClair, Christie; Gray, David; Deitz, Randy  
**Cc:** Purchia, Liz; Distefano, Nichole; Ostrander, David; Braun, Richard; Sandoval, Joni; Way, Steven; Mills, Bethany; Reynolds, Thomas; Ackerman, Joyce; Vaught, Laura; Calanog, Steve; Card, Joan; Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Russo, Rebecca; Hull, George; Smith, Roxanne  
**Subject:** RE: Winter Discharge Treatment

All,

We are cleared to move forward.

Rebecca, please commence the notifications of elected officials.

Laura, at 1:30 MST, issue the release to the media.

Thanks,

Shaun

**From:** StClair, Christie  
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 23, 2015 9:25 AM  
**To:** Gray, David; McGrath, Shaun; Deitz, Randy  
**Cc:** Purchia, Liz; Distefano, Nichole; Ostrander, David; Braun, Richard; Sandoval, Joni; Way, Steven; Mills, Bethany; Reynolds, Thomas; Ackerman, Joyce; Vaught, Laura; Calanog, Steve; Card, Joan; Jenkins, Laura Flynn; Russo, Rebecca; Hull, George; Smith, Roxanne  
**Subject:** Re: Winter Discharge Treatment

All - Here is the final, formatted press release. Once Shaun green-lights, we'll leave an

hour for notifications and then send the release to our GKM distribution list + post on the GKM site.

**CONTACT:**  
[Press@epa.gov](mailto:Press@epa.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
Sept. 23, 2015

## **EPA Announces Gold King Mine Water Treatment System for Winter 2015-16**

(Washington, DC) -- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that a portable, temporary treatment system will be located in Gladstone, CO (elevation 10,500ft) to continue treating water discharged from the Gold King Mine during winter 2015-16. This system will replace temporary settling ponds constructed by the EPA in August 2015.

The transition to the portable treatment system is necessary as local winter temperatures can reach -20F, making it unsafe to manually treat water at the mine site. The schedule calls for the treatment system to be operational by Oct. 14, 2015. EPA's contractor, ER LLC, awarded a subcontract Sept. 22, 2015 to Alexco Environmental Group (US) Inc. to complete the work.

This system will treat the approximately 550 gallons per minute (gpm) of water that continue to flow from the mine, including the discharges related to ongoing work in the mine to stabilize conditions. The system is designed to handle up to 1,200 gpm. The objective of the treatment system is to neutralize the mine discharge and remove solids and metals. Although the Gold king Mine discharge is just one of many into Cement Creek, the treatment will remove a portion of the metal loading to Cement Creek.

The EPA continues to evaluate data to determine the impact of the Gold King Mine on water quality.

Additional information about EPA's Gold King Mine response: [www.epa.gov/goldkingmine](http://www.epa.gov/goldkingmine)

R256

Christie St. Clair

US EPA Office of Public Affairs

c: 202-768-5780